

Problem: Placement of cameras

The primary reason for poor video quality is the placement of the camera(s). Many in the business community are unsure as to where video cameras should be placed and for what they should be used.

DO

- record a “**full face**” image of the suspect by placing the camera at head height.
- record the suspect near or inside the location. Main entrances are usually the best location on which to focus.
- place cameras in your parking lots.

DON'T

- make the area of coverage too wide, making the image of the suspect too small.
- intend to capture the crime and forfeit the image of the suspect.

Problem: Equipment

DO

- consider installing **CD video surveillance equipment**. It delivers a high quality image for distribution.
- maintain equipment in working condition at all times.
- replace the video tapes on a regular schedule to ensure quality.
- make sure video and lighting are compatible for quality image.
- leave the lights on after-hours to capture any potential video.

DON'T

- buy into large, costly systems, when many times a basic system will be suitable.

Problem: Personnel

DO

- train “opening” and “closing” employees on setting up new tapes.
- train employees that if an incident occurs to pull the tape and release to the officers.

Camera Systems:

1st Level (over \$1300):

- color camera w/ additional accessories (infrared, motion detector, weather guard)
- Generally includes over 4 cameras
- Color monitors (may include quad view)
- Digital recording w/motions sensor and CD burning capabilities)

2nd Level (\$700-\$1300)

- Color, weather protected cameras
- Generally 4 - 8 cameras
- Color monitors
- Basic digital recording with CD burning capabilities

3rd Level (Under \$800)

- Basic B/W or color camera
- Generally 1 or 2 cameras
- Basic B/W or color monitor (1 or 2 w/ splitter)
- VCR with recording capabilities

**Remember,
this video image may
be our only piece of
evidence.**

Important Numbers

For further information,
contact Officer Joy Patil:
(301) 565-5762

Non-Emergency Dispatch:
(301) 279-8000

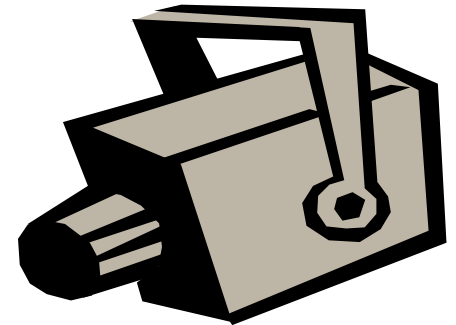
3rd District Station:
(301) 565-7744

3rd District Investigations:
(301) 565-5835

False Alarm Reduction Unit:
(301) 279-1917

Montgomery County Department of Police
3rd District Station
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Security Cameras: Placement and Policy



Often video taped evidence is collected from a crime scene that has little value in the identification and prosecution of the suspect. This is primarily due to the poor quality of the video tape coupled with a poor location for the video camera capturing the evidence.
